

Fair Housing Commission Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2014  
Municipal Office Annex, Conference Room B

Commission Members Present: Kay Gant, Chair  
Nelson Zahler, via conference call  
Angela Spencer, via conference call  
Katie Nash, arrived at 10:45 AM

Staff Present: Eileen Barnhard, CDBG Program Administrator  
Matt Davis, Manager of Comprehensive Planning

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Kay Gant, Chair of the Fair Housing Commission.

The first order of business was the review of the April 2014 Minutes. A motion to accept the Minutes as presented made by Angela Spencer, seconded by Nelson Zahler and all voted in favor.

The August 2014 Meeting Minutes are tabled until a quorum of Commission Members present at the August meeting can vote.

New Business

Annual Fair Housing Conference will be held on Tuesday April 7, 2015 at the Municipal Office Annex, with Don Martin of the Maryland Association of Realtors as the guest speaker. Recognition of the Fair Housing Poster Contest finalist/winner will be part of the conference. Artwork will be on display at the Municipal Office for the month to celebrate April as Fair Housing Month. Commission discussed the possibility of offering recognition of artwork by grade level and displaying at other Fair Housing events.

Kay asked the Commissioners if any progress has been made with securing a community calendar. Angela is working on it and will report back with specific events. Kay mentioned she would like to take part of In The Streets next year.

Angela would like to focus on a fair housing event that involves consumers. She will be meeting with the Human Relations Commission in early December and will have a date to report back to this Commission.

Gender Identity & Age as protected classes were approved by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at the November 20, 2014 public meeting.

The discussion on fair housing issues brought up previously by Katie Nash has been tabled since she is not present.

Staff member, Eileen Barnhard mentioned the Community Needs Survey which asks for community input for priorities and objectives for the Consolidated Plan. The link for the survey is [www.cityoffrederick.com/cdbgsurvey](http://www.cityoffrederick.com/cdbgsurvey). Included in the survey is a portion on fair housing which may yield more accurate data on allegations of discrimination the City.

#### Old Business

Testing results were reported on by Matt Davis and Kay Gant. Based on their research, no complaints have been made to the test on allegations of violations of fair housing. The Commission will continue to monitor the data for trends.

Mission Statement – The Fair Housing Commission voted (motion made by Nelson Zahler, seconded by Angela Spencer, all in favor) to add the newly adopted protected classes of gender identity and age to the Mission statement adopted on August 22, 2014.

Commissioner Katie Nash joined meeting.

Ordinance revisions – The Fair Housing Commission is currently reviewing the Ordinance including the Rules of Procedure. Once the Commission has completed the review, proposed changes will be forwarded to Legal for consideration before going before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Next meeting is set for Friday January 16, 2015 at 10:00 AM, Municipal Office Annex.

Motion to adjourn made by Angela Spencer and seconded by Nelson Zahler, all in favor.

Meeting ended at 11:35 AM